

OFFICIAL

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Attachment 4.40-C
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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: Vermont

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Procedures for Scheduling and Conduct of Standard Surveys

The State has in effect the following procedures for the scheduling and conduct of standard surveys to assure that it has taken all reasonable steps to avoid giving notice.

Vermont has taken steps to avoid giving notice through scheduling procedures and the conduct of the surveys.

For example, the fire/safety portion of the survey is conducted at the same time as the rest of the survey.

For example, the ombudsman is called by the surveyors once the surveyors are on site at the nursing facility. (Ombudsmen are called early after the entrance conference to let them know the survey is in progress, to ask if the ombudsman has any information to share with the surveyors, etc.)

However, until very recently, the Division of Licensing & Protection was informed by HCFA that time limited agreements of one year still needed to be issued until enforcement regulations were implemented. Such a system clearly gives providers a fairly good idea when their survey will occur. As a result of this state plan preprint, we are beginning to implement the 9-15 month schedule for surveys called for under OBRA '87, which we believe to be the correct approach under the law, regardless of other regulations.

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